



The Old Ironsides Report

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Band of Soldiers Wows Crowd

**Story by Kevin Maurer
Fayetteville Observer**

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Army Sgt. Adam Case is in Iraq armed with a bass guitar.

He plays in Government Property, a rock 'n' roll band made up of soldiers in the 76th Army based in Mannheim, Germany.

On Thursday, the band performed for Fort Bragg paratroopers at the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's supply area. It was part of an eight-week tour of Iraq.

As about 200 82nd Airborne Division soldiers sat in camp chairs and drank non-alcoholic beer, the band went through a varied repertoire - from old standbys like "Sweet Emotion" by Aerosmith to more recent hits such as Eminem's "Lose Yourself."

"We are trying to play something for everybody," Case said.

The 24-year-old from Mobile, Ala., joined the Army to play music. It is the best job in the Army, he said.

"You are kind of like a rock star in a way," he said. "I wouldn't join the Army in any other way."

The paratroopers, who have spent months in Iraq, said the three-hour show made for a nice change of pace.

Most sat in field chairs near the front of the stage, others sat on small bleachers.

The concert had the feel of an outdoor festival in the United States, right down to the beer. Or almost. The beer was non-alcoholic.

Pfc. Alex Gierbolini said the beer was OK and the band was good. He's a soldier in the 407th Forward Support Battalion.

Sgt. Winston Kallendorf said he watches television in the barracks most nights.

He was glad for something different.

"They are better than I expected from an Army band," he said. "They are pretty good."

Case said that the band's members typically play for command changes and other military ceremonies. They joined up to form a rock band for this tour.

There have been reminders that this is no ordinary band on an ordinary tour. During the four weeks the band has been on the road so far, Iraqis have shot at it. On one occasion when members were setting up for a concert for the 4th Infantry Division, mortars were lobbed into the area.

Sgt. Lovella Bell also couldn't forget that Iraq is still a hazardous place.

She just transferred to the supply point from working and living with the 3rd Battalion of the 82nd's 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment as a medic.

The soldiers out patrolling the streets of Baghdad don't get the chance to watch bands and drink beer, even if it is non-alcoholic.

"The guys out there deserve this," she said



Staff photo by Steve Hebert

Staff Sgt. John Okerson, left, and Sgt. Jon Seppanen listen as audience members sing along with the band Government Property at the 2nd Brigade support area in Baghdad, Iraq.



Staff photo by Steve Hebert

Staff Sgt. Eric Burger performs with the band Government Property.

A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety

Accident Prevention

- **Prevent accidents by enforcing standards.**
- **Leaders should know their high-risk soldiers and council them on correcting their behaviors.**
- **Don't walk by— make on-the-spot corrections of unsafe actions.**
- ***Maintain situational awareness and don't let your guard down.***

NEWS

Israeli Army, Gunmen Battle in West Bank
NABLUS, West Bank (AP) - Palestinian gunmen fired on Israeli soldiers manning a lookout in a four-story office building, setting off an intense urban gunbattle Friday in the West Bank town of Jenin. Elsewhere in the West Bank, Israeli troops broke through walls of homes in a hunt for militants, while a Jewish settler was killed and his pregnant wife wounded in a Palestinian shooting attack.

Minn. Teen Faces Internet Attack Charges

WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. cyber investigators arrested a Minnesota teenager Friday who the FBI said has admitted unleashing one version of a damaging virus-like infection weeks ago on the Internet. A court official identified the teenager as Jeffrey Lee Parson, 18, of Hopkins, Minn., known online as "teekid." A U.S. official in Washington also confirmed an arrest was made early Friday.

Congressman Charged With Manslaughter

FLANDREAU, S.D. (AP) - U.S. Rep. Bill Janklow was charged Friday with second-degree manslaughter in the death of a motorcyclist, killed in a crash at a rural intersection earlier this month. If convicted of the felony charge, Janklow could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. The House of Representatives ethics committee will also investigate.

Fierce Fighting Reported in Afghanistan

QALAT, Afghanistan (AP) - Afghan soldiers were waging a fierce battle with entrenched Taliban fighters in southern Afghanistan after a night of heavy U.S. bombing that left many Taliban fighters dead, an Afghan intelligence chief said Friday. The U.S. military said a special operations soldier died in an accidental fall during the fighting, some of the fiercest in recent months. The soldier's name was not immediately released.

Chaplain's thought for the day:

Through The Trial

Sometimes in life it seems,
That we are praying through a wall,
but God is right there with us,
He will never leave us at all,

For it's in life's toughest hours,
When we don't feel like standing tall,
That's when God is closest to us,
He will see us through our trial.

-- Mindy DeBord

SPORTS

Davenport Breezes Past Czink at U.S. Open
NEW YORK (AP) - Lindsay Davenport breezed into the fourth round of the U.S. Open, ailing foot and all. The third-seeded Davenport, the 1998 Open winner and only former champion in the women's field, easily defeated Melinda Czink of Hungary 6-0, 6-2 on Friday morning in 42 minutes.

Oddly Enough:

Crazy Carp Invade Missouri's Rivers

ST. LOUIS (AP) -- Two species of nonnative carp have been jumping into boats, injuring occupants and damaging the watercraft in rivers in Missouri. A state fisheries biologist motoring near Columbia had a filling knocked out of his tooth by a high-flying fish that struck him on the side of the head. Another state biologist in the St. Charles area was seriously hurt when he was hit by a giant carp. Brian Todd of the Missouri Department of Conservation said the big head carp and silver carp were brought to private fish hatcheries from Asia by the aquaculture industry. They were intended to eat excess algae and waste in aquaculture ponds - which grow fish for food as well as bait and tropical fish. But they escaped in floodwaters in 1993, 1995 and 2002. "This could be an indefinite problem," Todd said. "They are safe to eat, but ecologically they could damage the mussel population and are competing with native fish for food. We are going to hear more and more over the next few years about the problems these fish are causing, especially injuries to boaters and anglers." Todd said the carp have been spotted in many of Missouri's rivers, including throughout the Missouri River. "The sound of a propeller under water makes these fish go crazy," Todd said. "The fish don't jump if you're sitting there without the motor on, but the higher the RPMs, the greater the noise, the higher these fish jump."

On This Day In History: **August 28th 1862**

Confederates under Edmund Kirby Smith rout a Union army at Richmond, Kentucky, in one of the most lopsided engagements of the Civil War. As part of an attempt by the Confederates to drive the Yankees from central Tennessee and Kentucky, Smith moved toward Lexington, Kentucky, with about 19,000 troops in search of supplies. General Mahlon D. Manson, did not receive orders to fall back to the river, but, instead, placed his 6,500 troops on high ground around Richmond, further south of the Kentucky River. On the morning of August 30, Smith's force collided with Manson's south of Richmond. The Confederates soon routed the Yankees whose retreat was cut off by Colonel John Scott's Confederate cavalry force. The loss was complete for the Yankees. Fewer than 1,200 of the 6,500 Federals escaped, and more than 4,300 were captured. Confederate losses stood at 98 killed, 492 wounded, and 10 missing out of 6,800. Among those captured were Manson and his entire staff. The Confederates captured Lexington two days later.

Source: historychannel.com